

Claims:

1. A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material, said feeder spool having a vertical axis of rotation such that when the center folded packaging material is unspooled, the center fold is substantially horizontal;

b) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that the center fold is substantially vertical; and

c) sealing means for sealing the packaging material downstream of said inversion means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is substantially inverted-V-shaped.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is adjustable to accommodate different sized packaging material.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is made from substantially flexible wire.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said sealing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and a sealing surface having a sharp profile.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

said sealing means is a sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said sealing and severing means includes two pivot arms and a piston actuator.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said two pivot arms are coupled to each other by gears.

9. A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and

b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein

said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and a sealing surface having a sharp profile.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said sealing and severing means includes two pivot arms and a piston actuator.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

said two pivot arms are coupled to each other by gears.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

c) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that the center fold is substantially vertical.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said inversion means is substantially inverted-V-shaped.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said inversion means is adjustable to accommodate different sized packaging material.

15. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said inversion means is made from substantially flexible wire.

SECRET - SECURITY

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C2